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Low Density Resorinol-Formaldehyde Aerogel Foam Shells for Use as Cryogenic ICF Experiments\*, George E. Overturf, III, Steven R. Buckley, Stephan A. Letts, Gerald Wilemski, and Robert Cook, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, Livermore CA, Michael R. McClellan and Diana Schroen-Carey, W. J. Schafer Associates, Livermore CA, Stephen M. Lambert, Soane Technologies, Inc., Hayward, CA

Low density foam shells based on a resorcinol-formaldehyde chemistry have been developed for use in cryogenic ICF experiments. The shells can be made with diameters up to several millimeters, with wall thicknesses up to several hudred microns, and at foam densities as low as 60 mg/cc. The foam shells are very transparant due to the very small cell size typical for resorcinol-formaldehyde aerogel materials, and this transparancy will allow for optical characterization of cryogenic fuel fills. We will report on the methods used to produce these shells with special attention paid to the role of solvent character and our manipulation of the rate of gelation. We will also discuss our work on developing methods for applying a full density polymer overcoat to the low density foam shells.

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